

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RACE OF *CYNANTHUS LATIROSTRIS* FROM
GUANAJUATO.

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A recent accession of specimens from the State of Guanajuato, Mexico, contains the new form, herein described.

Cyananthus latirostris propinquus,¹ subsp. nov.

BLUE-BELLIED CYNANTHUS.

Type.—Male adult in winter plumage, number 22386, collection of Robert T. Moore; 5 miles N. E. of Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico; January 9, 1939; altitude about 5600 feet; collected by Chester C. Lamb.

Subspecific characters.—Nearest to *Cyananthus latirostris magicus* (Mulsant and Verreaux) of northwestern Mexico, but darker above and below, the adult male having posterior underparts much bluer without any conspicuous break in coloration between throat and jugulum, Dark Myrtle Green² instead of Peacock Green; upper parts much darker green instead of golden green; crown and occiput more Metallic Green; size larger. The female of *propinquus* differs from *magicus* in being obviously darker above; somewhat darker below; median rectrices having a wide Dusky Blue tip instead of entirely green or nearly so.

Propinquus differs from *Cyananthus latirostris latirostris* (Swainson) of the Valley of Mexico in the same way it does from *magicus* except size, which is similar, but the difference in coloration is much greater, for true *latirostris* has the blue of the throat much more restricted and sharply contrasted with the bright green of the jugulum, while the abdomen, having little green, is decidedly grayish; the under tail coverts dark gray instead of white.

Range.—Seemingly confined to the state of Guanajuato and extreme northern Michoacan.

The three adult males from Lake Cuitzeo, northern Michoacan, sixty miles southeast of Irapuato, have greener posterior under parts and darker

¹ The Latin word *propinquus*, "near in point of relationship," is used here to indicate the approach of this race to *Cyananthus doubledayi* (Bourcier).

² Names of colors in this paper, when capitalized, are taken from Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912.

gray under tail-coverts than true *propinquus*, but have darker upper parts and less gray abdomens than *l. latirostris*. They are intermediates, closer to *propinquus*.

AVERAGE MEASUREMENTS OF *Cyananthus latirostris magicus*
Cyananthus latirostris latirostris.
Cyananthus latirostris propinquus.

	WING. ³	TAIL.	EXPOSED CULMEN.
MALES.			
8 ads. <i>latirostris</i> , Valley of Mexico.....	54.8	33.0	21.1
7 ads. <i>propinquus</i> , Guanajuato & Michoacan..	54.9	35.2	21.1
28 ads. <i>magicus</i> , Sin. & S. Sonora.....	49.6	29.8	19.6
13 ads. <i>magicus</i> , Ariz. & extreme N. Sonora.....	51.0	30.8	20.0
FEMALES.			
2 ads. <i>latirostris</i> , Valley of Mexico & Tam.....	53.2	31.1	21.3
3 ads. <i>propinquus</i> , Guanajuato & Michoacan..	53.2	32.0	22.8
19 ads. <i>magicus</i> , Sin. & S. Sonora.....	47.9	27.5	20.1
7 ads. <i>magicus</i> , Ariz. & N. Sonora.....	49.9	28.4	21.6

Specimens examined.—*Propinquus*: Guanajuato: near Irapuato 4 ♂ 1 ♀, Rancho Enmedio 17 mi. N. E. Guanajuato 1 ♀; Michoacan: San Augustin Lake Cuitzeo 3 ♂ 1 ♀. *Magicus*: United States: Arizona: Santa Cruz Co.: Peña Blanca 1 Jv. ♂ 1 ♀; no county stated: Catalina Mills 1 ♂; Pima Co.: Ft. Lowell 6 ♂ 1 ♀; Cochise Co.: Portal 1 ♀. Mexico: Sonora: Saric 2 ♂ 4 ♀, Magdalena 1 ♂, Pesqueira 2 ♂ 2 ♀, Tesia 2 ♂ 1 ♀, Guaymas 1 ♂, San Javier 1 ♂ 1 Im. ♂ 1 ♀, Tecoripa 2 ♀, Camoa 1 ♀, Yaqui Riv. 1 Im. ♂, Agiabampo 3 ♂, Masocari Is. 1 ♂, Guirocoba 1 Im. ♂ 1 Jv. ♂ 2 ♀. Chihuahua: Urique Riv. bottom Baranca del Cobre 1 ♂. Sinaloa: Colmoa 1 ♂ 2 ♀, Huassa 3 ♀, Los Leones 1 Im. ♀, El Orito 1 ♀, La Guasimas 1 ♂ 1 ♀, Yecorato 1 ♂, Ahome 1 ♂ 1 ♀, Guamuchil 3 ♀, Culiacan 2 ♂ 2 ♀, El Molino 2 ♂, Badiraguato 2 ♂, San Ignacio 1 ♀, near Matatan 1 ♀, Elota 1 ♂, Rancho El Padre 1 ♀, Potrerillo 1 ♂, Sierra Palos Dulces 1 ♂, Rancho Picacho 1 ♂, Palmar 1 ♀, Arroyo Guayabito 1 ♂, Cacalotan 1 ♀, Palos Verde Mine 1 ♀, Rancho El Padre 1 ♂ 1 ♀, Rosario 1 ♂. Nayarit: Rio Las Canas 1 ♂, near Tepic 4 ♂ 1 Im. ♂ 1 ♀. Durango: Tamazula 1 ♂ 2 ♀, Rancho Guasimal 2 ♂. *Latirostris latirostris*: Mexico: District Federal: Valle de Mexico 8 ♂ 1 ♀. Tamaulipas: Santa Leonora 1 ♂ 1 ♀.

Remarks.—The description of *Cyananthus latirostris* Swainson (Philos. Mag., N. S., I, No. 6, June, 1827, 441) gives the locality as "Table land ? of Mexico." Swainson's references to the "Table land" usually refer to the region about Temascaltepec, but in this particular case, the query after the phrase "Table land" might indicate a doubt in Swainson's own mind regarding the exact locality of the bird he was describing. In 1934, Mr. W. W. Brown spent several months in Temascaltepec at the request of the author and took a large collection of birds. He did not secure a single

³ Wing measured from anterior point of Metacarpus.

specimen of *Cyananthus latirostris*! He writes me he did not see it, and adds, "Where I was located, it must have been uncommon, or we would have taken it. Furthermore, Mr. Brown went for the express purpose of concentrating on the species which Swainson described. On the other hand, *Cyananthus latirostris* is still common in the Valley of Mexico, since the eight males and one female in my collection were all taken there since January, 1931, by two different collectors. Bullock, from whose specimens Swainson's descriptions were often made, was particularly interested in hummingbirds and brought back to England in 1822 "seventy in cages" (Bullock, Six months Residence and Travels in Mexico, p. 267). Furthermore, he particularly mentioned seeing hummingbirds "in great plenty" in the Botanical Gardens of Mexico City, and a common garden-frequenter like *Cyananthus* is likely to have been conspicuous.

It seems almost certain that Bullock secured *Cyananthus latirostris* somewhere in the vicinity of Mexico City. Therefore, I hereby designate the type locality of *Cyananthus latirostris* Swainson as the Valley of Mexico, near Mexico City.

Now we come to the status of the smaller bird of northwestern Mexico, which Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, part V, p. 371, footnote) with evident hesitation synonymized with *latirostris*. Ridgway calls attention to the fact that the "specimens from the State of Sinaloa average considerably smaller than those from other localities, . . ." But he could not take the appropriate action, for he had no specimens from the Valley of Mexico and only seven males from scattered localities in Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi to compare with seven males from Sinaloa. My much greater series from both northwestern and eastern Mexico proves that differences in size are considerably greater than even Ridgway supposed. Furthermore, the birds of northwestern Mexico are Darker Green above and below and have almost pure white under tail-coverts, instead of Dusky ones as in specimens from eastern Mexico. It is equally significant that the new race of *propinquus*, lying geographically between true *latirostris* on the east and the birds of northwestern Mexico, is by far the darkest of the three races, possesses the whiter under tail-coverts of the northwestern bird, and a dark bluish green abdomen instead of the gray one suffused with golden green of true *latirostris* from the Valley of Mexico.

Regarding the name to be used for the northwestern bird, Dr. Oberholser graciously writes in full detail, confirming my conviction that "*magica*" of Mulsant and Verreaux is the only one which can be applied to it. He states, "*Hylocharis lazula* Reichenbach is an erroneous identification of Reichenbach's bird with *Trochilus lazulus* Vieillot, which is certainly not *Cyananthus latirostris*, but some South American species. *Sapphironia circe* Bonaparte is a nomen nudum, subsequently applied by Reichenbach to the south-eastern race of *Cyananthus latirostris*. *Hylocharis magica* Mulsant and Verreaux, where it was originally published, is also a nomen nudum, but a valid citation of it, not mentioned by Ridgway (Birds of N. & M. Amer. Part V, p. 373), was made by Mulsant and Verreaux (Annales Soc. Linn. Lyon, XVIII, January 31, 1872, p. 110, Mazatlan, "Basse Californie"), who

gives a "two-page description of this bird." This "is undoubtedly some form of *Cyananthus latirostris*" and they "mention the small size of the Mazatlan bird." Elliot's description of *Iache magicus* (Classif. and Synop. Troch., 1879, p. 23 Mazatlan, "Lower California"), is not the first description, as is generally supposed, and the fact that it follows closely the Type, discolored by immersion in chemicals, and is therefore not a good description of the northwestern bird, has no bearing on the problem. It follows that *magicus* must be used for the bird of northwestern Mexico and Arizona.

It would seem, then, that the names and ranges of the three races should read as follows:

Cyananthus latirostris latirostris ((Swainson) from the Valley of Mexico and Veracruz, probably through Hidalgo to Tamaulipas.

Cyananthus latirostris propinquus, Guanajuato, northern Michoacan and possibly portions of adjoining states in Central Mexico.

Cyananthus latirostris magicus, northwestern Mexico, from Sonora and Arizona south through Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Nayarit and probably to Colima and Guerrero.

As Ridgway noted on the basis of six adult males and six adult females from Arizona, these birds from southwestern United States are approximately the same size as the northwestern birds and the same coloration. The Arizona bird should take the name *magicus*. I have not seen specimens from Guerrero or Colima, but accept Ridgway's statement that these birds "are nearly as small" as the Sinaloa individuals.

The characters of the new race from Guanajuato show a definite approach to *Cyananthus doubledayi* (Bourcier) of Southern Mexico, with their more bluish abdomen and more Metallic Green pileum. Nevertheless, *propinquus* is closer to the *latirostris* group, nor am I suggesting that *latirostris* and *doubledayi* should be considered as conspecific. In conclusion, I should stress the extraordinary bluish green coloration below and dark greenish coloration above of *propinquus*; in fact it is considerably darker than either of the other two races to the east and west of its range; and slightly the largest.